

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04542 230039 Z

67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COA-02 SCI-06 RSR-01 /091 W  
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P 222334 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6615

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4542

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: SALINITY: EXTENSION OF MINUTE NO. 241

REF: MEXICO A-215

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND WATERS LUIS CABRERA CALLED IN POLITICAL COUNSELOR THIS MORNING TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVED MINUTE NO. 241 SHOULD BE EXTENDED DURING COURSE OF NEXT WEEK IN VIEW OF ITS EXPIRATION ON JUNE 30. HE REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMISSIONERS AND SAID HE FAVORED EXTENSION THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1973. HE DID NOT LIKE IDEA OF INDEFINITE EXTENSION BECAUSE IT IMPLIED THAT DEFINITIVE SOLUTION WOULD NOT BE REACHED SOON AND BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES OF SPECIFYING THE QUANTITIES OF SUBSTITUTION WATERS TO BE DELIVERED DURING AN INDEFINITE INTERIM PERIOD. CABRERA ALSO SAID COMMISSIONER HERRERA JORDAN HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE QUANTITY OF SUBSTITUTION WATERS DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1972 WAS 6,750 ACRE FEET (8,321,000 CUBIC METERS) AND THAT HE BELIEVED THE SAME QUANTITY SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN THE EXTENSION.

2. CABRERA SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING CHANGES FROM THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 567 OF APRIL 30, 1973 ( TRANSMITTED BY REF AIRGRM):

A. IN FIRST PARAGRAPH ADD A REFERENCE TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF APRIL 30, 1973.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04542 230039 Z

B. SECOND PARAGRAPH WOULD READ: " IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE, BEGINNING IN THE COMING MONTH OF JULY, THE TALKS WHICH BEGAN IN MEXICO CITY DURING THE CURRENT MONTH, TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FOR A PERMANENT, DEFINITIVE, AND JUST SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF SALINITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PRESIDENTS NIXON AND ECHEVERRIA ON JUNE 17, 1972, I HAVE THE FURTHER HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF MINUTE NO. 241 BE EXTENDED THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1973, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1973, THE UNITED STATES WOULD DISCHARGE A VOLUME OF APPROXIMATELY 6,750 ACRE FEET (8,321,000 CUBIC METERS) OF DRAINAGE WATERS FROM THE WELLTON- MOHAWK DISTRICT TO THE COLORADO RIVER DOWNSTREAM FROM MORELOS DAM AND SUBSTITUTE THEREFOR AN EQUAL VOLUME OF OTHER WATERS TO BE DISCHARGED TO THE COLORADO RIVER ABOVE MORELOS DAM."

C. THE THIRD PARAGRAPH WOULD SHOW EXTENSION THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1973.

3. CABRERA SAID THAT HE THOUGH HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA TO WASHINGTON FOR THE TALKS IN JULY AND THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE JOINED BY COMMISSIONER HERRERA JORDAN. WHEN POLITICAL COUSELOR INQUIRED AS TO HOW DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING BETWEEN THE TWO COMMISSIONERS ON SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE AND SIMULTANEOUS MINUTE CONCERNING TEMPORARY MEASURES ON PUMPING OF GROUND WATERS ON SAN LUIS MESA, CABRERA REVERTED TO HIS WELL- KNOWN POSITION THAT THIS ISSUE WAS COMPLETELY APART FROM THAT OF SALINITY OF COLORADO RIVER. HE ASSERTED THAT THE GROUND WATERS BEING PUMPED WERE IN FACT AN UNDERGROUND RIVER SYSTEM FLOWING INTO MEXICO. WHEN POLITICAL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT RABASA HAD AGREED WITH MR. BROWNELL ON AL SIMULTANEOUS MINUTE CONCERNING THIS PROBLEM, CABRERA MERELY SHRUGGED.

4. AS THE AMBASSADOR IS REPORTING SEPARATELY AND IN CONFIRMATION OF MATTHEWS/ EATON TELCON JUNE 22, FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA MUST BE IN TRINIDAD ON JULY 4 AND THEREFORE ASKS THAT MEETING BE RESCHEDULED BEGINNING JULY 6, LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY FOR EXTENSION OF DISCUSSIONS OVER THE WEEKEND.

5. PLEASE ADVISE APPROVAL OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES EXTENDING MINUTE  
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 04542 230039 Z

241.  
MCBRIDE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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